thing. The hon. Members are agitated over two issues. Since every Member has love for the village so they are agitated regarding the villages. ...*(Interruptions)* Let me speak. Since the hon. Members have love for villages, so they are agitated. Secondly, since the telephones remains out of order so the hon. Members are agitated. You please listen to me too. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Kanaujia, please do not disturb. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Mr. Kanaujia, you please tell me. If you are in my place and there is disturbance then will it be possible for you to reply? Please let me reply. ...*(Interruptions)* I will give such a reply which will make you happy. *(Interruptions)* Please atleast now listen to me. Mr. Chairman, Sir, a lot of concern has been shown in this case in this House. We have taken four steps in this regard so that these telephones work without any problem, messages received immediately and there should be no delay. ...*(Interruptions)*. You are not allowing me to speak. Some members are saying that Mr. Beni Prasad Verma is not present. After all I am also a Minister. I am replying to this question ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SANAT MEHTA (SURENDRA NAGAR): We have never said that you are not a Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let us have some order in the House. The Cabinet has a collective responsibility. The Minister of Communications has authorised Shri Balwant Singh Ramoowalia to give the reply. Let us give him a chance to reply.

[Translation]

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Time is running out. You please listen to me. You want a reply. Does it makes any difference...*(Interruptions)* You please allow me to speak. Firstly, we have increased checking by four times. Secondly, we have accelerated the repairing of faulty units with the help of computer. Thirdly, we have accelerated the monitoring system. And last, we have opened new repair centres. It will accelerate the pace of work. ...*(Interruptions)*

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Mobile Telephone Facilities

*463. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cities in the country where the 'Mobile Telephone' facility has been provided, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government are aware that 'Mobile Companies are collecting excess money from their consumers at different places; and

(c) the difference of the rates of mobile phones in different States and cities and the basis thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) The number of cities in the Country where the Cellular Mobile Telephone service provided by Licensee Companies is operational, is given in the attached statement-I enclosed.

(b) and (c) The Government has fixed a ceiling tariff for Cellular Mobile Telephone Service as given in the statement-II enclosed. The Service providers are permitted to charge the customers at a lower tariff than the ceiling tariff. Actual tariff charged may vary from place to place and company to company as a result of competition.

Statement-I

Cities where Cellular Mobile Telephone service is available State-wise

Sl. No.	State	Cities for which provisional clearance given
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad, Guntur and Vijayawada.
2.	Gujarat	Ahmedabad and Gandhi Nagar.
3.	Haryana	Sonepat, Panipat, Karnal, Ambala and Yamuna Nagar.
4.	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla.
5.	Karnataka	Bangalore.

1	2	3
6.	Kerala	Cochin, Kozhikode, Trichur and Trivandrum.
7.	Madhya Pradesh	Indore.
8.	Maharashtra	Pune, Nasik, Nagpur, Ahmed Nagar, Bombay and Kalyan.
9.	Tamil Nadu	Coimbatore, Chennai, Maraimalai Nagar, Minjur and Mahalbalipuram.
10.	Uttar Pradesh	Kanpur, Meerut, Agra, Aligarh, Ghaziabad, NOIDA, Muradabad and Rampur.
11.	NCT, Delhi	Delhi.
12.	West Bengal	Calcutta.

Statement-II

Ceiling Tariffs for Cellular Mobile Telephone service Tariff:

1. Monthly Rental for the Service -Rs. 156/- per month
2. Security Deposit -Rs. 3000/-
3. installation Charges -Rs. 1200/-
4. Call Charges:-

4.1 for calls originated by the Mobile Subscriber:-Air time charge @ 10 seconds per unit call plus call charges as applicable for the fixed network for Local, STD, and ISD calls. For mobile to mobile calls within the same Cellular Service area, only air time charges will be levied.

4.2 for calls terminating on the Mobile subscriber-Air time charge @ 10 seconds per unit call will he levied. No charge will be levied to the mobile subscriber if the mobile subscriber terminates an incoming call within 5 seconds.

5. Notes on tariff:-

1. Call duration will be on air time basis for mobile subscribers.

5.2 The air time unit call shall be charged at unit rate applicable to the highest slab of the DOT's fixed net work (Rs. 1.40 per unit at present). The unit rate shall be applied as above for all calls and there are no telescopic rates.

5.3 Call charges for the air time during peak hours shall be fixed at rates not exceeding double the rates prescribed in para 4 above. Peak hours shall be restriced upto a maximum of 4 hours per day. Peak hours and air time call charges during peak hours may be fixed by the Licensee in consultation with Telecom Authority.

5.4 Call charges for the air time during Sundays and 3 National holidays (15th August, 26 January & 2nd October) shall be half the rates prescribed in para 4 above.

5.5 For calls from mobile subscriber to the fixed net work, the Licensee shall charge the mobile subscriber at the rates prescribed by the Telecom. Authority according to time and day of the call. Unit rate for such calls shall be the highest slab rate of the DOT's fixed net work (Rs. 1.40 at present). The unit rate shall be applied as above for all calls and there are no telescopic rates.

5.6 There are no free calls to be given in the air time.

5.7 For calls originating from the fixed net work to mobile, the mobile subscriber will be charged for the air time and DOT will not have to pay any access fee to the Cellular Operator. The air time charges will be collected by the Cellular Operator.

5.8 For mobile to mobile both caller and called party will be charged.

6. All tariff increase shall be subject to prior approval of the Telecom Authority and/or its successor.

7. The rental does not include the cost of the Subscriber's terminal equipment (mobile handset). The subscriber is free to buy the terminal equipment from any source.

[English]

Foreign Equity in Telecom Sector

*466. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has offered automatic approval of foreign equity upto 50% in manufacturing projects in the Telecom sector;

(b) whether India has also permitted a maximum of 49% foreign equity in the Telecom Service Sector following opening up the telecom sector to private enterprises;

(c) if so, whether inviting foreign investment for telecom projects, the Government have made it clear that